

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 03644 101625Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /071 W
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P R 101443Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5651

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MADRID 3644

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA CONFRONTS THE "BUNKER"

RE: MADRID 3248

1. MAY 6, CORTES PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA PRESIDED OVER A SPECIAL MEETING IN THE CORTES BUILDING CALLED TO EXPLAIN THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS WHICH HAD BEEN ADOPTED TO EXPEDITE CORTES CONSIDERATION OF BILLS THE GOVT DESIGNATES AS URGENT.

2. FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE HAD APPROVED THE NEW PROCEDURES SO THAT THE CORTES COULD NOT BE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 03644 101625Z

SAID TO BE AN OBSTACLE TO THE GOVT'S REFORM PROGRAM, AND ACCUSATION

WHICH ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS ALONE WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE OLD REGULATIONS. HE CITED THE 20 MONTHS IT TOOK THE CORTES TO APPROVE THE BILL ON LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. THE PROVISIONS IN NO WAY RESTRICT THE RIGHTS OF DEPUTIES SINCE THEY PREJUDGE NEITHER THE CONTENTS OF THE BILLS NOR THE DECISION OF THE CORTES ON THEM.

3. FOLLOWING FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA'S EXPOSITION, MARKED BY CATCALLS FROM THE BUNKER, THERE WAS A PERIOD OF QUESTIONS FROM DEPUTIES. REPORTEDLY, OVER 300 DEPUTIES ATTENDED THE SPECIAL SESSION, FILLING THE HALL SET UP FOR THE MEETING AND SPILLING OVER INTO ADJACENT ROOMS. IN REPLY TO VERY HOSTILE QUESTIONING FROM CONSERVATIVE DEPUTIES--NOTABLY EX-MINISTER FERNANDEZ-CUESTA-- FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA SAID THAT THE CHOICE HAD BEEN FOR HIM TO DO NOTHING AND ALLOW THE CORTES TO FAIL ITS HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY OR TO ATTEMPT TO ADJUST THE CORTES TO THE NEW POLITICAL SITUATION. "THE CORTES WAS NOT FASHIONED FOR THE HISTORICAL SITUATION. THIS IS EVIDENT. MY RESPONSIBILITY WAS TO SEE THAT IT WAS ADEQUATE FOR THE NEW SITUATION AND WITH THESE PROVISIONS I HAVE DONE SO."

4. IN THE SESSION WHICH LASTED 4 HOURS, FERNANDEZ-MIRANDA REPORTEDLY EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE DEBATING SKILL, LACED WITH HUMOR, SOMETHING RATHER NEW IN THE SPANISH CORTES. BY ALL ACCOUNTS HIS PERFORMANCE WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND THE PRESS AWARDED THE EQUIVALENT OF THE BULLFIGHTER'S TWO EARS AND A TAIL.
STABLER

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